

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

COUNTRY Germany, Soviet Union Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP82-00457R010400240005-9

TOPIC Military Information from Prenzlau 25X1A

EVALUATION see below 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 10 January 1952

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

25X1X

1. Between 6 and 25 November, [] many small groups of NCOs with baggage went to the Prenzlau (N 54/Q 14) freight yard and, according to a Soviet officer, left for the U.S.S.R. Some of the groups were played to the station by a band. It was said that there were about 800 NCOs and that they belonged to units in Prenzlau. About 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were seen marching from the Prenzlau railroad station to the barracks installations on Berlinerstrasse on 20 November, and 150 troops on 4 December. A Soviet officer said that the barracks installations in Prenzlau quartered three regiments, including a mortar unit, which were assigned to a division headquarters in Oranienburg. The officer specified that the barracks installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse quartered two tank regiments which were called Unit Thernin and Unit Major Borisov Shoravlov (sic) Major Shoravlov had succeeded Colonel Tsich (sic) who returned to the U.S.S.R. during the fall maneuvers. The informant said that a tank regiment was organized into three tank battalions, with 3 tank companies and 1 maintenance company to a battalion, and with 24 tanks to a battalion. [] added that each tank was commanded by a lieutenant and each tank platoon by a senior lieutenant. [] *
2. Several tanks under repair and [] 5-axle truck with hoisting gear were seen in the barracks installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse on 7 December. A Soviet officer said that tanks of the units in the barracks installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse were overhauled there.
3. [] the monthly bill for military washing done by several laundries in Prenzlau amounted to 2,500 eastmarks. [] the 30 Russian women who arrived in Prenzlau in November 1951 wore uniforms, worked in orderly rooms of units and in officers' messes, and drew a monthly pay of 650 eastmarks.
4. [] the barracks installation on the north-west side of Berlinerstrasse quartered Unit Kuzmin.
5. From 22 to 30 November, even the attics of the barracks installation on the north-west side of Berlinerstrasse were occupied by 1,000 to 1,200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Six JS tanks, [] were filled up with gasoline in the barracks yard on 22 November, while 10 soldiers were seen cleaning rifles. In addition, four T-34/85 tanks, and radio truck [] with

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25X6

antenna folded down were parked in the barracks yard. Sixteen JS tanks [redacted]

25X1

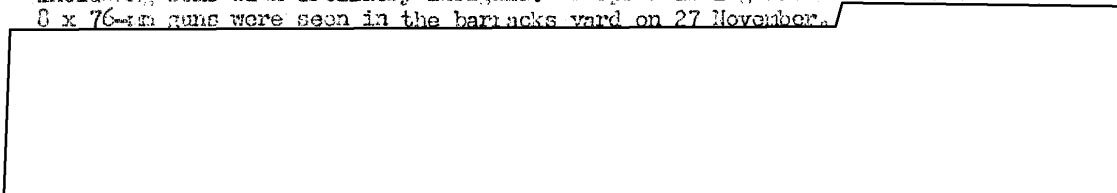
[redacted] 2 armored reconnaissance cars and radio truck [redacted]

25X1

were seen in the barracks yard on 30 November. Troops of 1 officer and 18 to 20 men practiced with each JS tank, and about 30 other soldiers received rifle



- 25X1 6. [redacted] November, the barracks installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse quartered 1,000 to 1,100 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Troops drilling with 6 x 80-mm mortars and 8 x 76-mm guns were seen in the barracks yard on 27 November. 25X1B



25X1X

7. In early November, a unit with the numerical designation 175 and Major Shanin (fnu), its administrative officer, were identified in the barracks installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse. At that time, numerous officers who had completed 3 to 3 1/2 years of service and were to be discharged from the army, were repatriated from the unit to the U.S.S.R. Judging by their behaviour, newly arriving officer replacements seemed to come directly from the U.S.S.R. A unit with the numerical designation 83 under the command of Colonel Kuzmin (fnu) was identified in the barracks installation on the northwest side of Berlinerstrasse. **

- 25X1A * [redacted] Comment. The statement that a medium tank regiment has three organic battalions constitutes a valuable indication that each medium tank regiment of the tank divisions in the Soviet Zone of Germany also has 3 tank battalions. The 24 tanks approximately correspond the 1/2 strength of one battalion. However, the battalion is believed to have only one organic maintenance platoon rather than a maintenance company as stated in the present report.

- 25X1A * [redacted] Comment. The report confirms the 25th Tank Div's 83d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt under the command of Colonel Kuzmin (fnu) in the barracks installation on the northwest side of Berlinerstrasse, and the division's 175th Tank Regt and the unidentified mortar regiment in the installation on the southeast side of Berlinerstrasse. The report thus confirms the 83d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt in Prenzlau until 7 December 1951, and the 25th Tank Regt until early November 1951. 25X1A

- 25X1A [redacted]. The present report for the first time confirms the mortar regiment which has been believed to be in Prenzlau as early as the end of October. The specification of weapons in the two barracks installations may have been subject to errors because the two billeting areas are situated closely together. Gds Major Chernin (fnu) is probably the deputy to Colonel Chepel (fnu) commanding officer of the 175th Tank Regt. Chepel possibly succeeded Colonel Tsich (fnu) who was repeatedly reported to have been reassigned to the U.S.S.R. in the summer of 1951. [redacted]. However, it is possible that Tsich was commanding officer of the unidentified mortar regiment and has been succeeded by Chernin (fnu). Major Shanin (fnu), probably the previously identified captain of the same name, may be battalion commander or administrative officer with the 175th Tank Regt. 25X1A

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